

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing information about an object through a graphical interface, the method comprising:
creating and storing scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements in a document, the SVG statements associated with a graphical representation of the object; and
binding to the SVG statements a pointer to a resource, wherein the resource includes information pertaining to the object.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a database and the pointer includes a query for a data item in the database.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a second document and the pointer includes a location of an element in the second document.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the binding comprises:
inserting into the document a reference to a document type definition for a binding element with an attribute for referencing any resource; and
associating an instance of the binding element with the SVG statements, the instance including the pointer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the object is one of a network device and a link between network devices;
the resource is a database of at least one of network devices and network connections associated with a managed network; and
the pointer indicates a database element associated with the object.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
creating and storing additional SVG statements in the document, the additional statements associated with an other graphical representation of an other object; and

binding the additional SVG statements to an other pointer to the resource, wherein the resource includes additional information pertaining to the other object.

7. A method of using information about an object through a graphical interface, the method comprising:
 - presenting a graphical representation of the object based on scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements in a document;
 - extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document, the binding element associated with the SVG statements;
 - determining whether a user has selected the graphical representation of the object;
 - and
 - if the user has selected the graphical representation, then using information in the resource based on the pointer.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the binding element is defined in a document type definition; and
the document includes a reference to the document type definition.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the method further comprises defining a style sheet which maps an area on a display associated with the graphical representation to a link including the pointer to the resource; and
said determining whether a user has selected the graphical representation comprises determining whether a pointing device has placed a cursor over the area.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the method further comprises providing statements in at least one of a scripting language and a programming language, the statements mapping an area on a display associated with the graphical representation to a link including the pointer to the resource; and
said determining whether a user has selected the graphical representation comprises determining whether a pointing device has placed a cursor over the area.

11. The method of claim 7, said using the information in the resource comprising displaying the information to the user.

1 12. The method of claim 7, said using the information in the resource comprising
2 launching a separate application to operate on the resource based on the pointer.

1 13. The method of claim 7, wherein:
2 the object is one of a network device and a link between network devices;
3 the resource is a database of at least one of network devices and network connections
4 associated with a managed network; and
5 the pointer indicates a database element associated with the object.

1 14. A method of presenting information about an object through a graphical interface,
2 the method comprising:
3 retrieving a document including scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements
4 associated with a first graphical representation of the object;
5 extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document, the
6 binding element associated with the SVG statements;
7 retrieving information from the resource based on the pointer;
8 modifying the SVG statements based on the information; and
9 presenting a second graphical representation of the object based on the SVG
10 statements after said modifying.

11 15. The method of claim 14, wherein:
12 the information retrieved from the resource includes current status of the object; and
13 the second graphical representation indicates the current status of the object.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein:
2 the object is one of a network device and a link between network devices;
3 the resource is a database of at least one of network devices and network connections
4 associated with a managed network; and
5 the pointer indicates a database element associated with the object.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein:
2 the binding element is defined in a document type definition; and
3 the document includes a reference to the document type definition.

- 1 18. The method of claim 14, said modifying the SVG statements comprising:
2 inserting an anchor for a hyperlink to another resource; and
3 inserting the second graphical representation of the object into the anchor.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, said modifying the SVG statements further comprising
2 including in the hyperlink at least a portion of the information retrieved from the
3 resource based on the pointer.
- 1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the second graphical representation is the same as
2 the first graphical representation.
- 1 21. The method of claim 18, said modifying the SVG statements further comprising
removing the binding element from the SVG statements.
22. The method of claim 18, said modifying the SVG statements further comprising
removing the SVG statements that form the first graphical representation of the
object.
23. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions,
wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more
processors causes the one or more processors to provide information about an object
through a graphical interface, the instructions comprising:
scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements in a document, the SVG statements
associated with a graphical representation of the object; and
a binding element associated with the SVG statements, the binding element including
a pointer to a resource, wherein the resource includes information pertaining
to the object.
24. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
using information about an object through a graphical interface, wherein execution
of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the
one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5 presenting a graphical representation of the object based on scalable vector graphics
6 (SVG) statements in a document;
7 extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document, the binding
8 element associated with the SVG statements;
9 determining whether a user has selected the graphical representation of the object;
10 and
11 if the user has selected the graphical representation, then using information in the
12 resource based on the pointer.

1 25. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 presenting information about an object through a graphical interface, wherein
3 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5 retrieving a document including scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements associated
6 with a first graphical representation of the object;
7 extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document, the binding
8 element associated with the SVG statements;
9 retrieving information from the resource based on the pointer;
10 modifying the SVG statements based on the information; and
11 presenting a second graphical representation of the object based on the SVG
12 statements after said modifying.

1 26. A computer apparatus comprising:
2 one or more processors; and
3 a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more processors, the computer-
4 readable medium containing one or more sequences of instructions, wherein
5 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more
6 processors causes the one or more processors to provide information about an
7 object through a graphical interface, the instructions comprising:
8 scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements in a document, the SVG statements
9 associated with a graphical representation of the object; and

10 a binding element associated with the SVG statements, the binding element
11 including a pointer to a resource, wherein the resource includes
12 information pertaining to the object.

1 27. A computer apparatus comprising:
2 one or more processors; and
3 a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more processors, the computer-
4 readable medium containing one or more sequences of instructions for using
5 information about an object through a graphical interface, wherein execution
6 of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors
7 causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
8 presenting a graphical representation of the object based on scalable vector
9 graphics (SVG) statements in a document;
10 extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document, the
11 binding element associated with the SVG statements;
12 determining whether a user has selected the graphical representation of the
object; and
if the user has selected the graphical representation, then using information in
the resource based on the pointer.

1 28. A computer apparatus comprising:
2 one or more processors; and
3 a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more processors, the computer-
4 readable medium containing one or more sequences of instructions for
5 presenting information about an object through a graphical interface, wherein
6 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more
7 processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
8 retrieving a document including scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements
9 associated with a first graphical representation of the object;
10 extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document, the
11 binding element associated with the SVG statements;
12 retrieving information from the resource based on the pointer;

13 modifying the SVG statements based on the information; and
14 presenting a second graphical representation of the object based on the SVG
15 statements after said modifying.

1 29. An apparatus for providing information about an object through a graphical interface,
2 the apparatus comprising:
3 a means for providing scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements in a document, the
4 SVG statements associated with a graphical representation of the object; and
5 a means for providing a binding element associated with the SVG statements, the
6 binding element including a pointer to a resource, wherein the resource
7 includes information pertaining to the object.

1 30. An apparatus for using information about an object through a graphical interface, the
2 apparatus comprising:
3 means for presenting a graphical representation of the object based on scalable vector
4 graphics (SVG) statements in a document;
5 means for extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document,
6 the binding element associated with the SVG statements;
7 means for determining whether a user has selected the graphical representation of the
8 object; and
9 means for using information in the resource based on the pointer, if the user has
10 selected the graphical representation.

1 31. An apparatus for presenting information about an object through a graphical interface,
2 the apparatus comprising:
3 means for retrieving a document including scalable vector graphics (SVG) statements
4 associated with a first graphical representation of the object;
5 means for extracting a pointer to a resource from a binding element in the document,
6 the binding element associated with the SVG statements;
7 means for retrieving information from the resource based on the pointer;
8 means for modifying the SVG statements based on the information; and
9 means for presenting a second graphical representation of the object based on the
10 SVG statements after said modifying.